

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) yesterday voted in support of the Clean Estuaries Act of 2010, which improves the quality of 28 estuaries in the United States, including the Charlotte Harbor Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon, both located in Rooney's 16th district.

"This bill will enhance quality of life in the 16th district by improving water quality, protecting fish and wildlife, and allowing recreational activity in the Charlotte Harbor Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon," Rooney said. "I'm proud to support this bill, and I'm pleased to announce its passage in the House of Representatives."

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary program is comprised of watersheds and estuaries in a 4700 square mile area in southwest Florida reaching into 11 counties. It was accepted into the National Estuary Program (NEP) in 1995 and is a partnership of citizens, elected officials, resource managers, commercial and recreational resource users who are working to improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the CHNEP study area.

The Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America. It is a 156 mile long estuary located on Florida's east coast and was accepted into NEP in 1990.

The Clean Estuaries Act of 2010, [H.R. 4715](#), reauthorizes the National Estuary Program through 2016. The National Estuary Program was established by Congress in 1987 to improve the quality of estuaries of national importance. This includes protection of public water supplies; protection and propagation of native shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and allowance of recreational activities, in and on water.

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